

MCAC Guiding Principles for Successful Medicaid Reform in New Hampshire

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The New Hampshire Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) is a public advisory group established in accordance with 42 CFR § 431.12 to advise the State Medicaid Director regarding New Hampshire Medicaid policy and planning.

As the Federal Government is considering changes to Medicaid financing that will likely give States more flexibility in how they administer the program, the MCAC developed a set of 4 guiding principles to assist the State in policy development as it considers increased flexibility.

Population: Provide coverage to low-income, categorically eligible, and at risk populations without allowing the number of uninsured individuals to increase. Preserve streamlined eligibility and enrollment so that those who are eligible do not encounter barriers to coverage. In addition, when Congress is considering changing Medicaid financing, we recommend advocating for an approach that minimizes the State's financial risk.

Providers: Ensure a viable health care safety net for low-income, categorically eligible, and at risk populations through appropriate contracting with health care providers and pay actuarially sound rates that are adequate to ensure beneficiaries have access to necessary covered services.

Coverage: Preserve affordable and integrated medical, behavioral health, substance use disorder, long term services and support, and dental benefits regardless of pre-existing conditions, family history, age, gender, gender identity, race, national origin or disability with out-of-pocket expenses capped at 5% of annual income and ensure that those below 200% of the federal poverty limit are not denied Medicaid coverage or services due to the inability to pay cost sharing, premiums, or deductibles.

Innovation: Pursue innovative strategies to encourage efficient use of high-value evidence based primary care such as but not limited to membership models of care and value based purchasing for Medicaid as seen in waiver programs in a number of states. We should look to successes in these waiver programs for ideas which have been tried, tested, and found to be effective at providing coverage, addressing access gaps, improving health, and improving care coordination across providers.

These four principles will help shape Medicaid reform so that it is person centered, affordable, sustainable, cost-effective, and supports a positive quality of life. The MCAC offers our services to assist in developing specific policies as this process moves forward.